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Northern Region News



October 1, 1993

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 10

Wilderness Takes Center Stage

by Cason Lindsay Angel, Ninemile Volunteer
Gloria Weisgerber, Editor, Northern Region News

It was an important occasion. One that brought such dignitaries as Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson, Congressman Bruce Vento of Minnesota, Director of the Bureau of Land Management Jim Baca, Assistant Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, David Olsen, R-1 Regional Forester Dave Jolly, and National Park Service Rocky Mountain Regional Director Bob Baker.

Also present were about 200 interested citizens who sat beneath a large open-sided tent at the Ninemile Ranger Station and listened to those who came to praise and honor the dedication of the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Research Institute.

From the administrators came the message of the imperative for wilderness and its effective management.

The purpose of the training center and research institute is to assist in providing the scientific knowledge and training needed to accomplish this goal by all government entities managing wilderness.

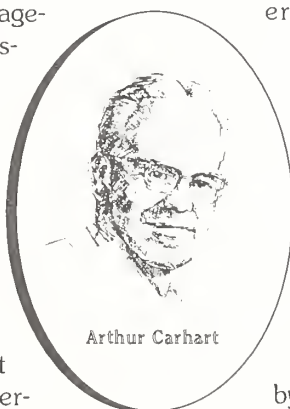
Others who addressed the audience were those who, in a very personal way, were able to remind the listeners of the many years it took

by wilderness advocates such as Arthur Carhart and Aldo Leopold to establish wilderness areas. Kay Collins, natural resource librarian and friend of Arthur Carhart, spoke of Carhart's lifetime efforts to teach the public and the government about the true value of the wilderness.

Former Montana legislator Dorothy Bradley came to the podium, not in an official capacity, but in representing the Leopold family. Bradley's stepmother was the daughter of Aldo Leopold. Leopold's life of achievement came, Bradley related, from an inner drive to actively support those ideals in which he believed. "Just living a passive life is not good enough," quoted Bradley from Leopold's writings, which could be a testimonial to his life of achievement in the promotion of conserva-

tion.

Judith Fraser, wilderness coordinator of the Anaconda-Pintler Wil-



Arthur Carhart

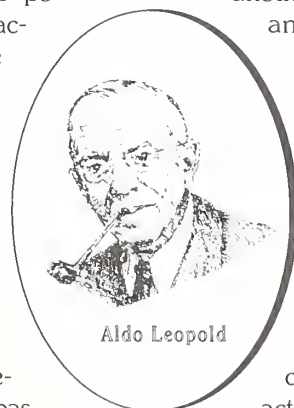


Forestry tech Dave York gives little guy a day to remember during dedication festivities

derness, spoke as one on the front lines of wilderness management who will be among those directly benefiting from the knowledge coming from the training center and research institute.

Immediately following the official dedication formalities, speakers and other guests mingled with one another, and visited exhibits and demonstrations located around the ranger station. There was something for everyone to enjoy—food, music, tours of the ranger station, a view of the packstring, demonstrations at the blacksmith shop, an opportunity to try the crosscut saw and other activities. The sounds of the

Grass Vally String Band's light hearted music and the beautiful, mellow voice of Gen Huitt contributed to making the Saturday dedication a very special day indeed.



Aldo Leopold



Forestry techs Ron Hilmo and Carole Johnson give lots of guidance on use of cross-cut saw at dedication



"THIS OLD HOUSE" Features Region 1 Historic Preservation Team

Region One's Historic Preservation Team is used to hard work and challenges. Restoring old log structures offers plenty of both. But this summer they learned that being the stars on a national television program can be equally arduous.

The scene was Anderson Lodge, located in the Washakie Wilderness of the Shoshone National Forest in northwestern Wyoming. Built in 1890 by Abraham Archibald Anderson, who later became special superintendent of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve, the two-story log cabin served as living quarters and an artist's studio. Anderson, a wealthy and well-known artist, had migrated to Wyoming from New York. At one point he imported two Paris models, whom he painted as they modeled in the nude in his studio. Local cowboys, suspecting more was going on, named a nearby creek Whorehouse Creek. But more proper cartographers later changed the name to Warhouse Creek for official maps. Anderson Lodge has now been placed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Team, consisting of historic preservation specialist Bernie Weisgerber and preservation carpenters Cary King, Dale Swee and Bill Harris, was there to fix the problem, along with a lot of volunteer help from members of the Sierra Club and others. Since Anderson Lodge is now located some seven miles back in a designated wilderness area, only hand tools, all packed in on mules, could be used.

Scene two began on July 24th when a film crew from This Old House, complete with directors, photographers, technicians, assistants and master carpenter and host Norm Abram arrived by horseback to film the action for a This Old House episode to be aired Saturday, November 20.

This Old House, produced for the Public Broadcasting System by WGBH in Boston, is broadcast by 324 PBS stations across the country and viewed by more than 25 million people monthly. It's the country's oldest and most successful home improvement series. As the crew dismounted, some stiffly, they

looked around at the mountain setting located at 9,000 feet in the Wyoming wilderness.

"This is fantastic," said Betsy Higgins, the crew's publicist. "We've been all over the world, but we've never gone by horseback or seen anything like this before."

Then the real work began. The weather had been lousy - rain every day and treacherous, mud-slick hillsides. Besides that, the crew had only one afternoon to shoot. They had to pack out the next morning to fly back to Boston. But Russell

Morash, director and executive producer of This Old House, quickly showed what directors are made of. After a brief tour and explanation of the project by preservation team leader Weisgerber, Morash took charge.

Weisgerber was to be the guide, show-



R to L - This Old House host Norm Abram gets pointers from Dale Swee and Cary King on notching a log

ing Abram around the site and explaining what the team was doing. Morash set the first scene. District Ranger Phyllis Roseberry escorted Abram on camera and introduced him to Weisgerber. For his part, Weisgerber's introduction to filming a TV program was a mixture of on-the-job training and sink-or-swim stardom. He learned his lines, his cues and his actions as they worked - all tossed out by Morash who was writing the script in his head. Friendly but demanding, Morash missed nothing. Scenes were shot again and again until they were right. When lines were flubbed, Morash grimaced, smiled and cajoled until everyone delivered the proper words and inflections.

Abram, affable and down-to-earth, dressed in plaid shirt, knockabout pants and comfortable old boots, went with the flow, keeping the work on an even keel and helping Weisgerber and the others along. Scene-by-scene the show developed. The R-1 Team showed their skills, from saddle notching to broadaxing. The weather held. And in four hours it was done. Order out of chaos. An episode of This Old House featuring Anderson Lodge and the Forest Service Historic Preservation Team was in the can.

The topper of the day was waiting for everyone just down the hill in the cook tent under the command of Tom Blunn, a retired district ranger from Missoula with a culinary flair. This night he outdid himself. Grilled steaks, baked potatoes, salad, corn on the cob and cake—fine wilderness fare in anyone's book. Carpenters and television crews, like the Army, do well when their bellies are full. No one even seemed to notice the drizzle that was starting to fall with the approaching darkness.

*by Gordon Warren, Public Affairs Officer
Shoshone National Forest, Region 2*



Greybull District Ranger Phyllis Roseberry, at center, introduces Bernie Weisgerber, left, to This Old House host Norm Abram in opening scene of filming

Perched on a steep hillside and built on the site of a spring, the multi-roomed log cabin had suffered badly. Sill logs were rotted, the building had settled, and part of the structure had "racked" or shifted out of alignment with the rest of the lodge. The R-1

Fish Lake Cabin Gets a New Lease on Life

Imagine a pristine lake nestled among rocky cliffs hidden deep within the wilderness. The lake glistens like a polished jewel in the sunlight as your plane circles around it, and you can see moose swimming in its water and grazing along its velvety green banks. No roads lead to this paradise; a pack trail and small airstrip are the only access.

Black bear, elk, deer and coyotes roam freely along with the moose, and as your aircraft lands you sense that you are strictly a visitor here, allowed for only a short time by your wild animal hosts.

The lake is Fish Lake in the Selway-Bitterroot Wil-

derness of central Idaho. In August, 11 Forest Service employees and 4 volunteers drew the lucky tickets and got to spend a week here. It wasn't a vacation however. These 15 people were a work party whose mission was to help restore the 60-year old Fish Lake guard cabin and clean up trash in the area. The reward was fresh air, beautiful scenery, and of course the good company—they were often visited by local wildlife and even got morning wake-up calls from the coyotes. But it was the elk and moose wandering through camp that got everyone's attention.

Volunteers were Don Stoen, owner of Lolo Hot Springs; Gary and Bonnie Thurston and Bill Dishman, all of Missoula. Dale Swee and Bill Harris of the Regional Historic Preservation Team were there, along with Dennis Elliott, Janet Oestreich, Mike Jarosky, Scott Wallace, Mike Lubke and District Ranger Margaret Gorski of Powell District, Hart Paulet of Lochsa District, and Bob Boston and Dean Brinkman of the Clearwater Supervisor's Office.

This year, which marks the third summer Powell District has worked on the cabin, the old floors were replaced with beautifully stained hardwood, weathered roof shakes and two rot-

ted wall logs were replaced, the Fisher wood stove got a new pipe, the door got a new threshold and trim, and a fresh coat of linseed oil made the whole place "shiny new." A shed that was ready to topple was rescued, and a major cleanup of the grounds was accomplished. And to make it more interesting, all of these improvements were done without mechanized equipment, since Fish Lake is within designated wilderness!

Dennis Elliott, resource assistant for Powell District, said over nine tons of trash and old unusable equipment accumulated over the years, including a tractor, was flown out by helicopter. Along with the tractor were a set of harrows, a mowing machine, and other equipment brought in to construct and maintain the airstrip. Now that the airstrip is within wilderness, that maintenance is done without mechanized equipment.

The cabin that stands now was finished in 1934. It has served as a ranger district headquarters, wilderness guard cabin, fire staging area, bunkhouse, and trail maintenance headquarters. The cabin's construction is top quality—far more than one would expect in a back-country cabin. Its builders used the Swedish Cope style of log notching. Each wall log is notched or grooved along its entire length, allowing one log to fit snugly on top of another. This technique requires a great deal of skill to produce a notch along the entire length of a log that accurately conforms to the particular irregularities of the log above it.

The result is a remarkably strong, tight-fitting structure. Today, even though the cabin has begun to settle somewhat, the wall logs still fit together perfectly. And hopefully the work done this summer will help this 60-year old cabin last another 60 years.



Fish Lake Cabin during restoration work, August 1993

by Deanna Riebe,
Public Affairs Assistant
Clearwater National Forest

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible. Send articles to G. Weisgerber:R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

accomplishments

Forest Service Rescues Fall Victim

On Friday, August 20, Horst Jarka, 68, of Missoula, was hiking with his wife and daughter near the Continental Divide near Ajax Lake, 20 miles southwest of Wisdom, in the Bitterroot Range of the Beaverhead National Forest.

About noon, Jarka was climbing through a snowfield, trying to reach the divide. He slipped on the wet, icy snow and fell several hundred feet into rocks. Jarka suffered head injuries, broken ribs, and a dislocated shoulder. His wife Lois stayed with him and his daughter Tina hiked back to the family vehicle, one mile below Ajax Lake.

Tina drove to the first ranch and talked to Dick Willy. (Ironically, Willy helped rescue Hank Williams, Jr., who had fallen under similar circumstances at the same location in 1975.) Using Willy's phone, Jarka called the Beaverhead National Forest's Wisdom Ranger Station. That set into motion the rescue machinery. The Interagency Dispatch Center in Dillon notified the Wisdom ambulance crew and arranged for the nearest high-mountain rescue helicopter to fly in from the Indianola Ranger Station, along the North Fork, in the Salmon National Forest. Meantime, the ambulance crew, led by Tina Spoon, went to the Wisdom airport to stand by.

At the same time, Bill Avey, the Wisdom District's recreation forester, alerted to the problem, drove to the Willy Ranch and, with Miss Jarka, returned to the accident scene. Avey established communications from the scene to the ambulance and dispatch center.

Because of the nature of Mr. Jarka's injuries, the Dillon Dispatch Center also alerted the Missoula Life Flight helicopter, which began flying toward Wisdom. After hearing an assessment of Jarka's injuries, dispatchers in Dillon decided to keep the life flight helicopter coming rather than risk the long drive over Lost Trail Pass to a trauma center hospital.

The Indianola helicopter landed at the scene at 2:30 p.m., about an hour before the weather would make such landings impossible for the next 36 hours. Severe thunderstorms, turbulence, and cold weather moved into the area shortly after the rescue. The helicopter then brought Jarka out at 3 p.m. It landed in Wisdom, where the Missoula Life Flight helicopter was already waiting.

The rescue happened very smoothly and quickly, according to officials. Jarka had lost quite a bit of blood and was in shock, but using the helicopters probably saved his life.

Later, Jarka expressed his gratitude for the "prompt, professional, highly organized help from a group of such thoughtful, kind, and experienced people."

*by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead National Forest*

Fairgrounds Get New Barn, Thanks to Trapper Creek Students



Trapper Creek crew building addition at Ravalli County Fairgrounds

A crew of about a dozen young men and one woman from the Trapper Creek Job Corp Center union carpentry class put their skills and enthusiasm to work at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds. They completed a 40' x 60' addition to the present sheep and swine barn. The addition, sorely needed to keep pace with the ever increasing fair entries, could not have been built without the students' help.

A Trapper Creek student painting crew spent three weeks refreshing the paint on many of the other buildings at the fairgrounds.

Besides the practical "hands-on" work experience, a feeling of accomplishment and pride in participating in community service, the students were rewarded with free passes to the fair and carnival rides.

*by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist
Bitterroot National Forest*

Touching People's Lives in Special Ways

Over 2,300 people from 11 Western States met in Missoula to participate in the Western States Youth Conference, sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The conference theme, "in the beginning it was good," was developed around projects to provide an opportunity for the participants to "touch people's lives in special ways, both those who perform the work as well as those who are helped by it."

In support of that theme, 70 attendees divided into two groups for work projects on the Stevensville and Darby Ranger Districts in the Bitterroot National Forest. They cleared trails at Willoughby Environmental Education Area and Boldgett Canyon and worked at Lake Como Campground rebuilding fences and building trails. The volunteers accomplished a lot of work, which will be of great benefit to the public, fulfilling the goal of the youth conference.

*by Dixie Dies, Public Affairs Officer
Bitterroot National Forest*

accomplishments

"We Can Do It"

Borrowing a slogan from Rosie the Riveter, the Women's Equality Day program featured speakers highlighting progress and reiterating needs. Kathy Solberg, director of Personnel Management, described increases in female equity within the Forest Service. She noted that the first woman hired for field work was Hallie Daggett in 1913, Klamath National Forest, the first female district ranger was Wendy Harrett in 1979, White River National Forest, and the first woman forest supervisor was Geri Larson Bergen in 1985 with the Tahoe National Forest.

Brent Gardner, community social worker with the Montana Department of Family Services and spouse of District Ranger Nora Rasure, advocated assistance for spouses in job placement to answer a real need of husbands moving with Forest Service wives.

Four Region 1 employees were awarded certificates of appreciation for their personal achievements in modeling, mentoring, and promoting women's equality. Beverly Young, RO Engineer, promotes and models through her professionalism and her outstanding performance. Marion Cherry, Gallatin Forest biologist and Federal women's coordinator, supports women's recruitment and mentoring. She develops acceptance by her management style, personal attributes, and sense of humor. Chuck Wassinger, RO Director of Land and Minerals, proactively promotes women's equality. His encouragement and support has overcome tradition and opened opportunities for many women to advance. Winnie Schreiber, public affairs specialist with the Lolo National Forest, has earned awards and praise for her zealous initiation of activities developing women's confidence and desire to achieve in non-traditional roles.

by Sunny Hemphill, Federal Women's Program Manager
Regional Office

Sheridan District Employees Spotligthed



YES! IT'S DONE! Stephanie Wood (left) and Diane Petroni, from the Beaverhead's Sheridan Ranger District, enjoy their well-deserved certificates of merit for their work on the Upper Ruby EIS. They were key players in this ground-breaking document. It analyzed grazing on the largest allotment of the largest grazing forest in the Region.

Army Reserves on Campground Duty



Army Reserves building fishing pier at Spring Gulch Campground

An explosive effort by 38 Reservists from the Army Reserve 279th, Engineering Detachment from Missoula, 6 Sula District employees, and 3 Trapper Creek Job Corp students and their instructor recently resulted in the rehabilitation of the Spring Gulch Campground in the Sula Ranger District.

The industrious crew constructed a new handicapped accessible fishing pier, installed new underground electric and water lines and a concrete holding tank vault to be used by the campground volunteers.

"They did GREAT!", Sula resource assistant Gina Owens stated enthusiastically. "I was impressed with their professionalism, dedication, energy level and willingness to do a good job."

The Reserves, who have training two days each month, want volunteer projects where the skills of their people—plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and roads/grounds personnel—can be used. The Spring Gulch Campground project fit their needs. It was agreed that the Forest Service would provide the plans and specifications to get them started.

The Army Reserve provided 570 person-hours, 233 equipment hours and all the heavy equipment, including a dump truck, grader, John Deere backhoe/bucket loader, a roller and a "SEE"—a Mercedes truck with a backhoe and bucket loader. The Forest Service provided all construction materials and fuel for the equipment. Forest Service personnel hauled gravel and assisted with all the other work that needed to be done.

"In a day and a half, the Reserves accomplished an incredible amount of work," stated Owens.

by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist
Bitterroot National Forest



Product of a day and a half of hard work

R-1 Employees Help Establish Jamboree National Forest

Three Northern Region employees recently joined with twenty-seven other Forest Service folks from around the country for a two-week detail to the Nation's newest and smallest National Forest, the "Jamboree National Forest," near Fredericksburg, Virginia. The occasion was the 1993 National Scout Jamboree, an event that attracted over 35,000 boy scouts and 60,000 visitors during its seven-day run.

This year Forest Service participation went big time with the creation of the Jamboree National Forest, complete with ranger station, fire tower, and three 1 1/2-mile long trails. The trails included a recre-

ation trail, designed to give scouts an idea of the different experiences they could have in urban, natural-appearing, and primitive areas; an ecosystem trail which provided information on the multiple values of an area; and a fire trail, featuring a lookout tower and two prescribed fire areas.

Frederick Flint, with the Flathead National Forest; Richard Kracht, with the Gallatin; and Dick Schwecke with the Lewis and Clark were part of a team of 30 Forest Service employees who spent August 4-10 interacting with scouts as they toured the Jamboree National Forest.



Boy scouts experiencing the forest as a person with a disability might, from a wheelchair

What Do Firefighters Do When There Aren't Any Fires?

When the Bitterroot Hotshots returned from a 25-day fire assignment in Arizona and New Mexico in mid-July, nobody on the crew would have believed that by mid-September they wouldn't have left their home base in Darby, Montana, on another fire roll! But that's what has happened in this extraordinarily fire-free season.

What does a Hotshot Crew do when there aren't any fires to fight? First and foremost, the crew continued daily physical training and assured that equipment was fire-ready. After that, they were available to the Bitterroot National Forest to do project work.

This era of budget and funding cuts has left a lot of district units with work to do and nobody available to do it. This has made the Hotshot Crew an increasingly valuable resource, as it is the largest single crew of temporary employees in the Bitterroot Forest with set funding. The ability of the crew to work as a 20-person crew or break into small groups as needed has enabled many projects to be completed.

The Hotshot Crew has worked for the Sula Ranger District removing old range fences, and dropped trees to open the view

around the McCart Lookout (now a rental), bucking them into firewood.

The Darby Ranger District has used the crew to make minor repairs and do some painting around the ranger station, to buck up blowdown trees across the trail around Lake Como, to set out (and recently bring in) the docks and swimming area floats on the lake, to do erosion control work, to clean picnic tables in the Lake Como Campground, and other similar tasks.

The biggest project the crew has been involved in is the construction of the new Blodgett Overlook Trail on a ridge between Canyon Creek and Blodgett Creek behind Hamilton. This mile and a half long trail will fill a public request for a short day hike trail close to town. The trail will offer spectacular viewpoints into both Canyon Creek and of the cliffs in Blodgett Canyon.

It is uncommon that the Bitterroot Hotshot Crew is home long enough during the fire season to accomplish this much project work for the forest. The crew appreciated the opportunity to keep busy and we're sure the forest appreciated our efforts.

*by Rene Eustace, Foreman,
Bitterroot Hotshot Crew*

Jamboree for Jeeps?



The gathering of jeeps at Wallace Ranger District

This past August the Wallace Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, in conjunction with the Lolo's Superior Ranger District, co-sponsored the Region's first jeep jamboree. This national event, supported by the Chrysler Corporation exclusively for jeep, four-wheel drive owners, attracted over 150 people and 55 jeep vehicles from 12 states. Coordinating the group was Mark Smith, president of Off Road Inc., Georgetown, California, and Mike Millward of Priest River, Idaho. District personnel who assisted with managing the event were John Linch, supervisory forester; Bill Cook, recreation forester; Carlyon Combs, lead recreation tech; and Terry Smith, law enforcement officer and traffic cop.

The main purpose of the jamboreers is to have an enjoyable four-wheel drive adventure over challenging roads in scenic areas while supporting the Tread Lightly guidelines.

*by Carl Ritchie, District Archaeologist
Wallace Ranger District, IPNF*



a note from Dave

7 here's a special group of people I think about often, who have a particular interest in our organization and in the work of the agency. They are our retirees. With their many years of experience and wide range of backgrounds, they are an outstanding resource for us. What better sounding board could there be

but someone who has such an interest in the issues confronting us and is under no obligation to agree with our opinions.

Their amazing spirit and dedication to the work of the Forest Service is shown by their participation in countless projects. We have retirees who volunteer at ranger districts, work on trails, serve on committees, donate photos and artifacts to help preserve the heritage of the agency, advise in such critical areas as fire management, backfill in positions when needed during fire season, and a host of other things. They have been key players in the formation of a National Forest Service Museum, to be headquartered in Missoula, and the National Smokejumpers Association. It is obvious from all of this that they love the national forests and I believe that they care deeply about all of us.

There are two major retiree associations in the Northern Region, the Forest Service Retirees Association and the Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association. I encourage all of you to maintain contact with them and keep them informed and involved in the work now going on in Region 1 in a way that's meaningful to them and us.

It would be foolish to discard, disregard, or ignore their valuable knowledge and experience. We need the long view, the historical perspective if we intend to learn—as we should—from past successes and past mistakes.

Dave Jolly
Regional Forester

Hogback Cabin Site Focus of Archaeological Dig

The Hogback homestead on Rock Creek was constructed in 1917 under the Forest Homestead Act. It has had four owners: two farmers, one bootlegger and the USFS. The Missoula District, Lolo National Forest, acquired the property in 1979. By 1989, the homestead cabin was in critical condition. The porch had collapsed, the building had been used for target practice, and a local miner had cut out some of the rafters to use on his claim. The cabin had to be restored or destroyed.

It was decided to restore the cabin and turn it into a rental for the cabin rental program. Restoration work has been done as funding allowed since 1989, and the cabin should be ready for rental within the next two years. At various stages during the project archaeological testing was done, revealing that the area was used extensively by both prehistoric and historic people. Further testing was scheduled for areas to be impacted by work needed to ready the cabin for rental.

Excavation takes lots of time and lots of people. The Lolo decided that this was an ideal situation for a Passport in Time (PIT) Project, where people from around the country volunteer their time to work on Forest Service heritage projects with professionals. The Hogback was a three-week project, using an average of 10 volunteers a week. Participants came from as far away as Georgia and California, and ranged in occupation from retired police officer to student to school teacher.

The results of the excavation helps us add important information to the prehistory of western Montana. A Folsom point was found during the project, the first found west of the Continental Divide in Montana. Folsom points, are distinctively-made small spearpoints which were part of a dart and atlatl hunting kit. Folsom points date to between 10,000 and 8,500 years ago. Where there is good preservation, they are usually found associated with extinct forms of bison. The Folsom point adds a new chapter to western Montana prehistory by increasing the time depth for human use of the region by over 1,000 years.

The information that has been gathered from Hogback cabin will be used to interpret human use of the Rock Creek area for the last 10,000 years—what has changed and what has remained the same through time.

*by Kristen Whisennand, Archaeological Technician
Lolo National Forest*



The happy crew at Hogback cabin: L to R - front row - Pat Antonich, Kristin Whisennand, Robin Kent, Addrien Marx, Erin Marx, Gail Parnelle, Sam Roach, Marcia Cross. Back row - Mary Horstman, Dan Gard, Tim Light, Colin McLeod, Jane Duncan

notice to northern regionaires

It is October, the trees are changing color, days are clear and cool, and nights are crisp. All this can mean only one thing: let's get ready to ski!

Ed Cumming (Glacier View District Skiing Fool), and I, Dennis Jones, would like to invite any Northern Region employee or family member who experiences permanent disability to come and learn to downhill ski or to just make some turns with Ed and me.

Both Ed and I are involved with the DREAM Disabled Ski Program on The Big Mountain, located in Whitefish, Montana. If you are disabled and have never skied before, now is your chance. The DREAM Ski Program enables first-time disabled skiers to get lessons, lift tickets, any adaptive equipment needed, and trained volunteers all FREE for the first three lesson days. Also, if your child is eligible to ski with the program, you as a parent can get your lift ticket provided at no cost, provided you help with your child's ski lesson.

And lastly, there must be skiers out there who are disabled, who already know how to ski, and would benefit from being dared into skiing feats that they wouldn't ordinarily consider. Well, Ed and I can help them, or maybe they could show us some tricks.

If you can ski and need equipment, DREAM will provide you with what you need at no cost. Discounted lift tickets are available to handicapped skiers who do not need instruction.

Don't delay! Call Ed Cumming at Glacier View Ranger District (406-892-4372) or Dennis Jones at Flathead Supervisor's Office (406-758-5204). DG address: D.Jones:R01FI0A or E.Cumming:R01FI0D07A. Think Snow—Think Turns!

*by Dennis Jones, Information Assistant
Flathead National Forest*

smokey bear poster contest

To mark Smokey Bear's 50th anniversary, the National Council of State Garden Clubs is sponsoring a Smokey Bear poster contest for 1994. The theme? You guessed it—"Only You can Prevent Forest Fires." Winning State posters will be displayed at the Smokey Bear 50th anniversary celebration, August 9, 1994, in Washington, D.C.

Competition criteria first through fifth grade students posters will be judged on originality, design, slogan, artwork, and overall effectiveness of the message posters are to be 12" X 18" materials can include crayons, markers, poster paints, water color, etc. No three-dimensional posters allowed.

The artist's name, home address, grade and school must be printed on the lower, right-hand corner **ON THE BACK OF THE POSTER**. Local groups judge and submit first, second, and third place winners to the state Garden Club's State Poster Contest chairperson no later than March 7, 1994. Copies of the poster contest rules are available at all Forest Service offices.

regional forester's seminar series

Where: Regional Headquarters, East & West Conference Rooms
Missoula, MT

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Topics: October 18, 1993
Conservation Ambassadors - Tearing Down Boundary Walls

January 18, 1994
Collaborative Investments in Rural Communities

May 16, 1994
Video Technology

September 19, 1994
Devil's Kitchen

new guidelines for regional archives

A wide range of people--authors, teachers, researchers, students, museums, other government agencies--make frequent use of the items stored in basement rooms in the Missoula Federal Building. Also bits of historical documentation, information and artifacts sometimes are useful for R-I projects, work in other Regions and the Washington Office.

Growing demands being made on the photographs, color slides, books, artifacts and other historical materials in the Northern Region historical collection dictate the need for clear guidelines to protect these valuable materials, while ensuring they are available for reference and research. The Public Affairs Office (PAO) has announced new guidelines which apply to all persons, groups or organizations who wish to use the historical references:

- Requests to the PAO will be submitted on a "Historical Information Request" form.

- Information and loan requests, in writing or by telephone, should provide 3 to 5 days' lead time.

- PAO support staff will search the PAO library/storage rooms for requested historical items.

- Original, written materials will not be loaned, but copies will be made available.

Additional information about the historical archives is available by contacting the Public Affairs Office (406) 329-3092.

national hispanic heritage month

The 16th of September is the celebrated day of independence from Spanish rule for the country of Mexico. Each year people of Mexico, as well as Hispanic descendants in the United States, recognize this day as the official break of freedom from Spain in 1821.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, join with us in recognition of the independence of Mexico, an historic event important to many of our Hispanic citizens.

*by Joe Encinas, Co-op Student
Idaho Panhandle National Forests*

MAVIS who?

You may have heard the name "MAVIS" floating around Missoula or mentioned by a Forest Service employee. Maybe you wonder who she is? What does she do?

Well, MAVIS is not a person, but an acronym for Missoula Area Visitor Information Services. Located out of the Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, MAVIS provides general recreation information about the Lolo National Forest and manages the Smokejumper Visitor Center at the Aerial Fire Depot. MAVIS also works throughout the community with organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce; Glacier Country; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks; University of Montana and numerous businesses to promote and share information about Missoula area recreational programs, and about National Forests in general.

Mavis also sponsors interpretive programs during the summer for the general public and nature walks/talks for schools and organizations. Any retirees or employees interested in presenting a program next summer should contact Winnie Schreiber, MAVIS Coordinator, at 329-3814.

*by Winnie Schreiber, Public Affairs Specialist, MAVIS and
Jodilynn Wiseman, Guide, MAVIS*

complaint department has new office

For those of you who aren't familiar with us, EDRO-Central is the Employment Dispute Resolution Office that mediates employment disputes, especially those that are perceived as discrimination of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental handicap or marital status. Employees, former employees and applicants can ask for our services.

The primary mission of the EEO Complaint Program is to develop and maintain user-friendly resolution processes through which disputing parties can quickly and fairly address issues of alleged discriminatory management practices that obstruct equal employment opportunity in the work place.

The unit consists of three full-time mediators: Jim Pierce, Tom Thomas, Florence Navarro, and our assistant, Bonnie Simmons. Our office was established to assist Regions 1, 2, 3, 4; the Boise Interagency Fire Center; Intermountain and Rocky Mountain Range and Experiment Stations; Geometronics Service Center; Missoula Technology and Development Center and all other WO detached units.

We are located in the Regional Office in R-2. We have a new mailing address: 740 Simms St., P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225. We can be reached at (303) 275-5401 or by TDD (303) 275-5367.

*by Bonnie Simmons, Mediator
EDRO Central*

in celebration of disability employment awareness month - some introductions are in order

Surely you must have a pet peeve. For those of us with disabilities it might be public restrooms that are labeled handicapped accessible—and aren't; sidewalks without a sloped curb so that those in wheelchairs must use the roadway.

If you aren't disabled you might not be aware of the seriousness of inadequate facilities for those with a disability. For that reason, Region 1 formed an advisory committee of persons with disabilities (PDAC), whose members are personally acquainted with the issues and can assist the Region in heightening awareness of the special needs of the disabled.

The advisory committee serves a variety of purposes. We make recommendations on the employment and integration of persons with disabilities into the workforce; assist with trainings; promote awareness; and communicate issues, concerns and accomplishments to leadership. To facilitate the goals of the committee, PDAC works in partnership with Personnel; Engineering; and Wilderness, Recreation and Heritage Programs staffs to take full advantage of the expertise required to meet the needs of those employees and the public who have disabilities.

In this issue and the November edition of the Northern Region News, I would like to introduce you to the members of the advisory committee in an effort to better convey what we're trying to accomplish. Please meet KATHY DAUGHERTY of the RO Public Affairs Office and also secretary for PDAC:

I'm manager of the Northern Region Visitor Information Center. Remember that terrific voice you heard the last time you called for information at the Regional Office? Well, you were probably talking to me. A native of Oklahoma, I have lived in Montana since 1972, raised my son here, and worked for the Forest Service since 1981. This is home.

Born with a form of Cerebral Palsy, I have partial paralysis on the entire left side of my body and very poor finger dexterity. There was a point in my life when it seemed to me that one had credibility with an employer if one's typing speed was 70 wpm and respect meant one could take shorthand faster than a speeding bullet. Since I was lacking in both, I decided if I had poor use of my hands, I'd make good use of my mouth! As a member of the Regional Public Affairs staff, I have an opportunity to use my voice to better serve our Forest Service customers everyday.

When I was asked to become a member of PDAC, I was pleased to say yes. It is my desire to help create a work environment where a person's value is not judged by a disability, but rather where every individual's talent is recognized, enhanced and utilized.

*by Crystal Lake, Secretary
Regional Office*

(Editor's note: Please watch for further introductions to PDAC members in November's "Northern Region News.")

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

PETRONI, MARK, district ranger, Madison & Sheridan RDs, promotion

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BURT, RUSSEL, cook, Trapper Creek JCC, belt buckle award
 CAMPBELL, JASON, volunteer, Darby RD, belt buckle award
 COX, MARIA, forestry technician, West Fork RD, belt buckle award
 FRASURE, JUDY, resource specialist, Sula RD, spot award
 HINMAN, LENNY, forestry technician, Darby RD, cash award
 JONES, LARRY, construction inspector, SO, promotion, civil engineering technician
 KEMPF, JERRY, forestry technician, Darby RD, cash award
 KLAPWYK, DON, counselor, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award
 LUCAS, DAVE, animal packer, West Fork RD, belt buckle award
 PIETARINEN, LINDA, botanist, SO, cash award
 REGAN, GEORGE, forestry technician, Sula RD, cash award
 RITTER, DANIEL, wilderness resource specialist, Nez Perce NF, Moose Creek RD, belt buckle award
 WILSON, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, cash award
 YORK, JAMES, forestry technician, Sula RD, cash award
 ZIKAN, DOUG, forestry technician, Sula RD, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DEMONTIGNY, JACKIE, soil scientist, reassignment, R-10, Tongass NF, Wrangell RD
 HINMAN, TERRY, resource technician, Darby RD, reassignment, training instructor, Trapper Creek JCC

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BRETZ, VERN, civil engineering technician, SO, promotion
 BUTLER, JOE, agricultural science resource technician, Powell RD, spot award
 COLEMAN, SHAUN, biological aid, Powell RD, spot award
 CROSS, SEAN, biological science aid, Powell RD, spot award
 GOCHNOUR, DOUG, acting ecosystem planning officer, SO, ecosystem planning officer, temporary promotion
 KIRN, ANDREA, agricultural science resource technician, Powell RD, spot award
 MANNING, GARY, silviculture supervisor forester, Palouse RD, temporary promotion, Lochsa RD, acting ranger
 MANNING, JONI, student trail wildlife biology, Powell RD, spot award
 MARTIN, GLENN, forestry technician, North Fork RD, temporary promotion
 WELLNER, KENT, silviculture forester, Palouse RD, temporary promotion, silviculture supervisor forester
 WESTOFF, DAN, biological aid, Powell RD, spot award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

KEEVY, JULIE, computer assistant, Palouse RD, transfer, BLM Coeur d'Alene, ID, contact representative
 SLOAN, VALERIE, information receptionist, SO, career conditional appointment, U.S. Corps of Engineers, clerk

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

DEARING, PATRICIA, contract specialist, SO, spot award
 DORRALL, RENE, computer assistant, Butte RD, spot award
 DUNN, MARTIN, alcohol and drug abuse specialist, Job Corps, promotion
 EVANS, PATRICE, computer assistant, SO, spot award
 HAMANN, JOHN, soil scientist, Butte RD, cash award
 HENNINGSEN, RICK, forester, Butte RD, spot award
 KELLEY, IRENE, budget accounting analyst, SO, spot award
 PASCACAVE, CHARLES, biological technician, Butte RD, cash award
 PATTERSON, HELEN, office automation clerk, SO, spot award
 RADOMAN, ORA, accounting technician, SO, promotion and spot award
 WIEBE, LINDON, forestry technician, Phillipsburg RD, spot award
 WINKER, LENA, office automation clerk, Deerlodge RD, spot award

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALLISON, RITA, data entry clerk, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

NEILL, ELIZABETH, landscape architect, reassignment, Lolo NF

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CASSIDY, K.C., computer specialist, SO, cash award
 ROMNEY, MARK, forester, Hebgen Lake RD, promotion, Huron-Manistee NF
 SOLLID, SHERM, geologist, SO, cash award
 WILLIAMS, SHELLY, civil engineering technician, SO, promotion, program assistant

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BURNETT, ELLEN, purchasing agent, SO, transfer, resource clerk, Mark Twain NF
 SMITH, TINA, resource clerk, White River NF, reassignment, Hebgen Lake RD

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BROWN, JENNIFER, forestry aid, Helena RD, spot award
 CAMPBELL, DARCEY, computer assistant, SO, spot award
 CHRISTENSEN, CHRIS, forestry technician, Helena RD, spot award
 COLE, MAUREEN, personnel management specialist, SO, promotion
 COUTTS, TEDDI, computer specialist, SO, promotion
 DALY, BRIAN, copier/duplicating clerk, SO, spot award

DAUENHAUER, TOM, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, spot award
 DRESSLER, CASEY, forestry technician, Townsend RD, spot award
 HART, BARBARA, office automation clerk, SO, spot award
 LAKE, MATTHEW, forestry aid, Helena RD, spot award
 MARTIN, DAVID, forestry technician, Helena RD, spot award
 PAULSON, KATHY, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, spot award
 PLUMMER, JEAN, office automation clerk, Townsend RD, spot award
 SCOTT, SHARON, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, cash award
 SEPPI, DINO, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, spot award
 WILSON, LYDIA, office automation clerk, SO, spot award
 WOOD, DAVE, forestry technician, Lincoln RD, spot award

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BALL, SANDRA, purchasing agent, promotion, Sandpoint RD
 EIMERS, STEPHANIE, student trainee (wildlife biologist) promotion, St. Maries RD
 HUDSPETH, DENISE, forestry technician, promotion, St. Maries
 JONES, JANA, forester trainee, promotion, Sandpoint RD
 LOPER, ROBIN, conversion to career appointment, forestry aid, Wallace RD

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

ARRHENIUS, TAMMI, civil engineer technician, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 BEACH, WILLIAM, civil engineer technician, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 CARAPPELLA, RUTH, supervisory forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 ENCINAS, JOSEPH, Santa Fe NF, reassignment, student trainee (forestry), SO
 FLOOD, CAMEO, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 FRAZIER, CANDY, pay & property assistant, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 GRAVELLE, TRACY, forestry technician, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 PRICE, MARY, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 SCHMIDT, JAIME, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 THOMSON, DALLAS, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 WARE, MICHAEL, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD
 ZIMMERMAN, PETER, forester, reassignment, St. Maries RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDRESEN, MICHELLE, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 APPELHANS, WARREN, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 BIRKLEY, DAVID, archeology technician, Fortine RD, spot award
 BROWN, JESSICA, clerk, Rexford RD, spot award
 CANFIELD, JEFFERY, forester, Rexford RD, spot award
 CARVEY, DALE, forestry aid, Rexford RD, spot award
 DOTEN, CHRIS, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, special act
 DUECKER, ANNIE, wildlife biologist, Rexford RD, spot award
 FERDER, JEFFERY, youth conservation corps leader, Three Rivers RD, spot award
 FERGUSON, LESLIE, forester, Three Rivers RD, promotion
 GODDARD, KENNETH, civil engineering technician, West Zone Engineering, special act
 GROMLEY, TOM, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 HAGGARD, MILLIE, information receptionist, Fortine RD, spot award
 HARRINGTON, KRIS, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 HILDERMAN, KRIS, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, special act
 JAMES, VICTOR, civil engineering technician, West Zone Engineering, special act
 JAMISON, BETTY, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, spot award
 KOMAC, RONALD, wildlife biologist, Rexford RD, spot award
 KROEGER, LEWAYEN, civil engineering technician, West Zone Engineering, special act
 LAFFOON, MICHAEL, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, special act
 LANE, ALAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, special act
 LEGGINS, CARL, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 LUCEY, JAMES, forestry aid, Rexford RD, spot award
 LUNDEEN, JANET, civil engineering technician, West Zone Engineering, special act
 MACMILLAN, NORBERT, forestry aid, Rexford RD, spot award
 MCBRIDE, JAMES, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, promotion
 MCCREA, ROBERT, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, promotion
 MCKIBBEN, SARAH, forestry aid, Rexford RD, spot award
 MEE, AMANDA, forestry technician, Rexford RD, spot award
 OLSEN, DEBORAH, civil engineer, West Zone Engineering, special act
 PEARSON, MARSHALL, supervisory forester, SO, spot award
 PUCKEY, JAMES, forestry technician, Rexford RD, spot award
 PULVER, CARL, forestry aid, Three Rivers RD, spot award
 RUNYAN, CHARLES, forestry aid, Three Rivers RD, special act
 SCHAUSS, DIETMAR, forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 SHUEY, THERESE, purchasing agent, Fortine RD, promotion
 SLAVEN, SHAUNA, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, special act
 STOKEN, MARTY, forestry technician, Rexford RD, spot award
 STREET, BILL, lead forestry technician, Fisher River RD, spot award
 THORNBURGH, DEWAYNE, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, special act
 TOSH, LARRY, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, special act
 UTTER, CHAD, forestry technician, Rexford RD, spot award
 UZOH, ROSLIE, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, spot award
 WALKER, JOHN, senior community service employment program, Fortine RD, special act
 YOUNG, JOEL, forestry technician/law enforcement officer, spot award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

SULLIVAN, KIRK, hydrologist, Medicine Bow NF, promotion, Rexford RD
 SMITH, DALE, supervisory information resource manager, Libby RD, transfer, information analyst, SO Administration

Personnel Update

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

ADOLPHSON, GORDON, spot award, Kings Hill RD
 ALLISON, GARY, spot award, SO
 BLUE EARTH, SHIRLEY, promotion, mail & file clerk, SO
 COWIE, CRAIG, spot award, Kings Hill RD
 DIAMOND, SETH, cash award, Rocky Mountain RD
 EVANS, ROGER, spot award, SO
 FIELD, DANA, spot award, SO
 FRIDGE, MARY, promotion, forestry technician, Musselshell RD
 GLIKO, ROBERT, spot award, Kings Hill RD
 GRADWELL, JANET, cash award, Judith RD
 HERTEL, JAMES, spot award, SO
 KING, LORI, promotion, range conservationist, Judith RD
 KNECHT, CARO, spot award, Judith RD
 MACDONALD, LEAH, spot award, SO
 MORRIS, SANDRA, promotion & spot award, student trainee, Rocky Mountain RD
 MOSHER, RICHARD, spot award, Kings Hill RD
 NIENOW, MARK, hydrologist, Kootenai NF, promotion & spot award, SO
 PETTIT, ROSE, spot award, Kings Hill RD
 PHILLIPE, GARY, cash award, Judith RD
 PHILLIPS, WAYNE, spot award, SO
 STRATHY, ROBIN, spot award, SO
 WIDDICOMBE, MICHAEL, promotion, forestry technician, Musselshell RD
 YATES, RONALD, spot award, SO

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

DARLING, ROBERT, law enforcement program coordinator, reassignment, criminal investigator, SO

RESIGNATIONS

RITCHEY, CAROL, student trainee, SO

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALLEY, SUE, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 AMON, RICK, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 BARNDT, WAYNE (SKIP), soil scientist, Lolo SO, special act award from Eldorado NF
 BOHANNAN, CONNIE, supervisory contracting specialist, SO, 25-year service award
 BULLOCK, GARY, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 CHRISTOPHER, ROGER, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 EGENHOFF, TERRY, general biologist, Superior RD, special act award from RO
 ELMSTROM, KEVIN, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 GROVER, FRANK, forester, SO, 25-year service award
 HAGER, STEIG, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 HAINES, JOHN, forestry technician, Plains RD, spot award
 HENDRICK, JENNIFER, office automation clerk, Superior RD, spot award
 KREIS, LAURIE, office automation clerk, Ninemile RD, safety award
 MEADOWS, RENITA, forestry aid, Ninemile RD, safety award
 MOLES, DENIS, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 NAGY, ROCHELLE, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 NAUGHTON, GEORGE, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 PARK, MAUREEN, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 PENGELLY, MARK, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 POLUTNIK, JULIE, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 ROBINSON, BYRON, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 SHIMADA, GERRY, supervisory computer specialist, SO, 20-year service award
 SHORT, GARY, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 SIXKILLER, JOHN, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 SLOAN, LARRY, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 STEWART, CHAD, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 STOCK, KEVIN, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 TANASCU, MIKE, supervisory forester, SO, 30-year service award
 TEETERS, GLEN, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 TOMPKINS, TERRY, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
 VINCENT, VIRGINIA, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

ARTLEY, SUZANNE, forester, Real Estate Management, Lolo SO, reassignment, Wild and Scenic Rivers Project, LRP
 NEILL, ELIZABETH, landscape architect, Flathead NF, reassignment, Lolo NF

REGIONAL OFFICE

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

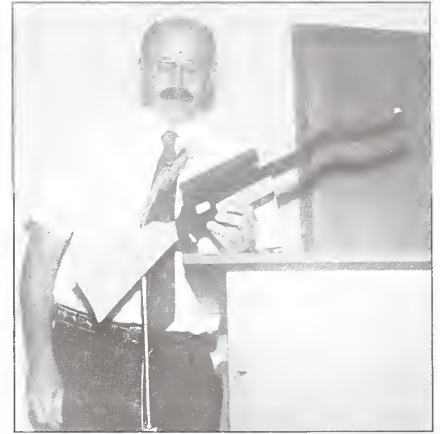
BIXLER, SCOTT, land law examiner, promotion, realty specialist, L&M
 ENGSTROM-SOLHEIM, KATHLEEN, office automation clk, A&FM-AFD, promotion, A&FM-RO
 FIELDHOUSE, PAUL, forestry technician-smokejumper, promotion, lead forestry technician, smokejumper, A&FM-AFD
 HABER, JONATHAN, forester, L&FP, Quality Step Increase
 NIMLOS, TRACEY, purchasing agent, A&FM, spot award
 OLIVER, JAN, office automation clerk, L&FP, Quality Step Increase
 PLYMALE, PAULA L., accountant, ADM, cash award
 STELLMACH, EDWIN J., accountant, ADM, cash award
 TOMASCAK, WALT, forester, A&FM, spot award (from Beaverhead)
 ZWANG, CHERYLE, public affairs specialist, PAO, promotion

RESIGNATION

HARD, KAYE, office automation clk, L&FP, resignation

Retirement News

Warren Illi, resource coordination staff officer for the Flathead National Forest, retired in July after 34 years of Federal service, 31 of which were in the Forest Service. His first three years after graduation from college was with the U.S. Marine Corps, from which he emerged as a captain. He came to the Northern Region in 1972, working in the lands shop until 1977 when he moved to the Flathead Forest to work on wild and scenic rivers land acquisition. In 1983 he became the forest planning officer and in 1986, resource coordinator, a position he held until his retirement.



As a testament to his shooting prowess, Warren Illi is presented an appropriate firearm at his retirement party

Dick Snyder, preconstruction engineer with the Regional Office, retired in August after 33 years of Federal service. Snyder, a native of Rapid City, South Dakota, started his Forest Service career with the engineering staff unit in the R-I Regional Office in 1961. In 1964, he was promoted and assigned to the Clearwater National Forest. Subsequent assignments included: St. Joe National Forest, St. Maries, Idaho; Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, Montana; Transportation Analysis Group, Berkeley, California; Six Rivers National Forest, Eureka, California; Ashley National Forest, Vernal, Utah. He served in the U.S. Army with the 1st Combat Engineers from '61-'63; 116th Combat Engineers, '68-69. Since 1986, Snyder has been in the R-I Regional Office Engineering staff unit.

Snyder has accepted the post of county engineer for Pend Oreille County, Newport, Washington.

Jack Swiger, with the Kootenai National Forest, retired on September 3, after 26 plus years of service. Contrary to rumors that Jack worked for the Pony Express, Jack's work history doesn't extend quite that far back! He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers in Pasco, Oregon, in 1950, was in the U.S. Air Force in 1952, then worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Pasco from 1956-57. He came to work for the Forest Service in 1975, beginning and ending his career as a civil engineering technician in Troy, Montana.

Jack has a wife, Joyce, three daughters and one son. Jack plans to continue to make his home in Troy, spending his time gardening, doing handyman work and traveling when he isn't too busy. His address is P.O. Box 365, Troy, MT 59935.

Other Retirements

Jon B. Bledsoe, forester (administration), Lochsa RD, Clearwater NF

Albert Collotzi, biological scientist, IPNF

Joseph Gorsh, forester, TCFPM, Regional Office

Royce Mikelson, engineering equipment operator foreman, Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF

Clayton Nelson, engineer, Lewis & Clark NF

John Swiger, civil engineering technician, West Zone Engineering, Kootenai NF

Personnel Changes

Former co-op student **Yolanda Harris** was recently converted to contract specialist trainee with the Lolo Supervisor's Office. Yolanda, from Selma, Alabama, is a 1993 graduate from Alabama A & M University. She worked the last two summers with the Lolo National Forest in contracting and procurement.

Don't Ever Lie to a Mule

...and other things Will Vigen has learned
in over 50 years working with mules

Will Vigen, trail crew foreman for the Lincoln Ranger District, Helena National Forest, has a special link with mules and history. During World War II, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Hawaiian Pack Train, the last non-mechanized unit in the U.S. Army stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. This summer he attended a reunion of his unit, held June 2 in St. Louis.

Vigen transferred to the Hawaiian Division as a packer and horse trainer on December 1, 1941. Located on the island of Oahu, Schofield is situated 12 miles northwest of Pearl Harbor. Six days after his arrival, Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese. Vigen's most vivid memory of that day was the sight and sound of Japanese fighter planes flying overhead, raining down machine gun fire on the corrals

at Schofield. He watched in amazement as the mules separated in front of the bullets. "They survived the attack without a mark on them," Vigen said, still surprised at their good fortune.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, there were two pack string units in the Pacific in addition to the one in Hawaii. The other two were in the Philippines and Panama. In Hawaii, the animals were used to move supplies to radar stations, mortar positions, and ammunition caches in the mountainous areas. The unit consisted of about 150 people. The number of stock ranged from 900 to as many as 1,700 horses and mules. The mules were hardy, carrying packs up to 350 pounds for distances of 15 to 20 miles of rough terrain per day.

The Hawaiian Pack String was disbanded in 1952, and the mules sold to island plantations. At war's end, Vigen took his first job with the Forest Service, packing for the Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. He later packed in Glacier National Park, and worked elsewhere on ranches before hiring on with the Lincoln Ranger District in 1986 to pack for trail crews in the Scapegoat Wilderness.

For this native Montanan, born and raised in Bynum, near Browning, working with horses and mules for over half a century has been a good life. He's partial to mules, which he says make for easier riding than horses. And, he says, they're smarter. Which means if you're going to work around mules "you have to like 'em, because they sense it if you don't," says Vigen. Which is to say, don't ever lie to a mule—there may be serious consequences.



Will Vigen, ready for guard duty at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, during WW II



Will Vigen, preparing for a pack trip, 1987

The Northern Region News

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